

CLAIMS

1. A digital document system in which a digital document in a communication network is shared between a plurality of stations, said system  
5 comprising:

- a first station (101A, 101B) having a first digital document (DD1) comprising a thumbnail data item (TH1) and an original data item (HR1);

- a second station (102A, 103B) having a second digital document (DD2) comprising a thumbnail data item (TH2); and

10 - a center station (100A, 100B) comprising:

• calculating means for calculating signatures of the thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2) of the first and second digital documents (DD1, DD2);

• comparing means for comparing the calculated signatures of the thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2); and

15 • transmitting means for transmitting information for accessing the original data item (HR1) of the first digital document (DD1) to the second station (102A, 103B) according to a result of the comparison.

2. A method of controlling a center station (100A, 100B) capable of  
20 communicating with a plurality of stations sharing a digital document in a communication network, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

a) receiving a thumbnail data item (TH1) comprised in a first station (101) and a thumbnail data item (TH2) comprised in a second station (102A, 103B);

25 b) calculating a signature from each of the received thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2);

c) comparing the calculated signatures of the received thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2), and

30 d) transmitting information for accessing an original data item (HR1) related to the thumbnail data item (TH1) to the second station (102A, 103B) according to a result of the comparison.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the thumbnail data item (TH2) comprised in the second station (102A, 103B) is generated in the first station (101A, 101B).

5 4. A method according to claim 2, wherein color histograms each based on the thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2) is calculated as the signatures in said calculating step.

10 5. A method according to claim 2, wherein a comparison is performed based on a difference and a threshold calculated from the thumbnail data items (TH1, TH2) in said comparing step.

6. A method according to claim 2, wherein said communication network is a peer-to-peer network.

15 7. A method according to claim 2, wherein the first station is a digital camera apparatus and generates the original data item (HR1).

20 8. A method of controlling a station (101A, 101B) capable of sharing a digital document in a communication network, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

i) generating an original data item (HR1);  
ii) generating a thumbnail data item (TH1) from the original data item (HR1);

25 iii) transmitting the thumbnail data item (TH1) to the other station; and  
iv) receiving an access from said other station to the original data item (HR1) based on the thumbnail data item (TH1).

30 9. A method of controlling a station capable of sharing a digital document in a communication network, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

1) receiving a thumbnail data item (TH2) from other station;

2) transmitting the received thumbnail data item (TH2) to a center station (100A, 100B);

3) receiving, from the center station (100A, 100B), information for accessing the original data item (HR1) related to the thumbnail data item (TH1)

5 determined based on the thumbnail data item (TH2).

10. A computer program stored in an information carrier, said program comprising instructions enabling the implementation of a processing method according to claim 2, when that program is located and executed by a computer system.

11. A computer program stored in an information carrier, said program comprising instructions enabling the implementation of a processing method according to claim 8, when that program is located and executed by a computer system.

12. A computer program stored in an information carrier, said program comprising instructions enabling the implementation of a processing method according to claim 9, when that program is located and executed by a computer system.

13. A device for accessing a digital document in a communication network characterized in that it comprises means adapted to implement a sharing method according to claim 2.

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14. A device for accessing a digital document in a communication network characterized in that it comprises means adapted to implement a sharing method according to claim 8.

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15. A device for accessing a digital document in a communication network characterized in that it comprises means adapted to implement a sharing method according to claim 9.